

east at 10 a. m., and continued in that direction until 3 p. m., when it backed to northeast and later to north. The general drift of air from the Atlantic during the day of heaviest snowfall was to the west across Pennsylvania, then to the south across Ohio and to the southeast over West Virginia where another current was encountered from the Middle Atlantic coast. The meeting and mixing of these two currents appear to have been the cause of the heavy snowfall.

southwestern part of the State also. The heavy snow and the high wind together caused great damage to telephone and telegraph lines, the poles being broken by the hundreds east, south, and southeast of Pittsburgh. The State highway department (Sunday, 29th) reported roads blocked by snow in these districts, and advised only necessary traffic on other roads which were open but still in poor shape for heavy traffic. At Somerset, in Somerset County, 36 inches snow was reported on the

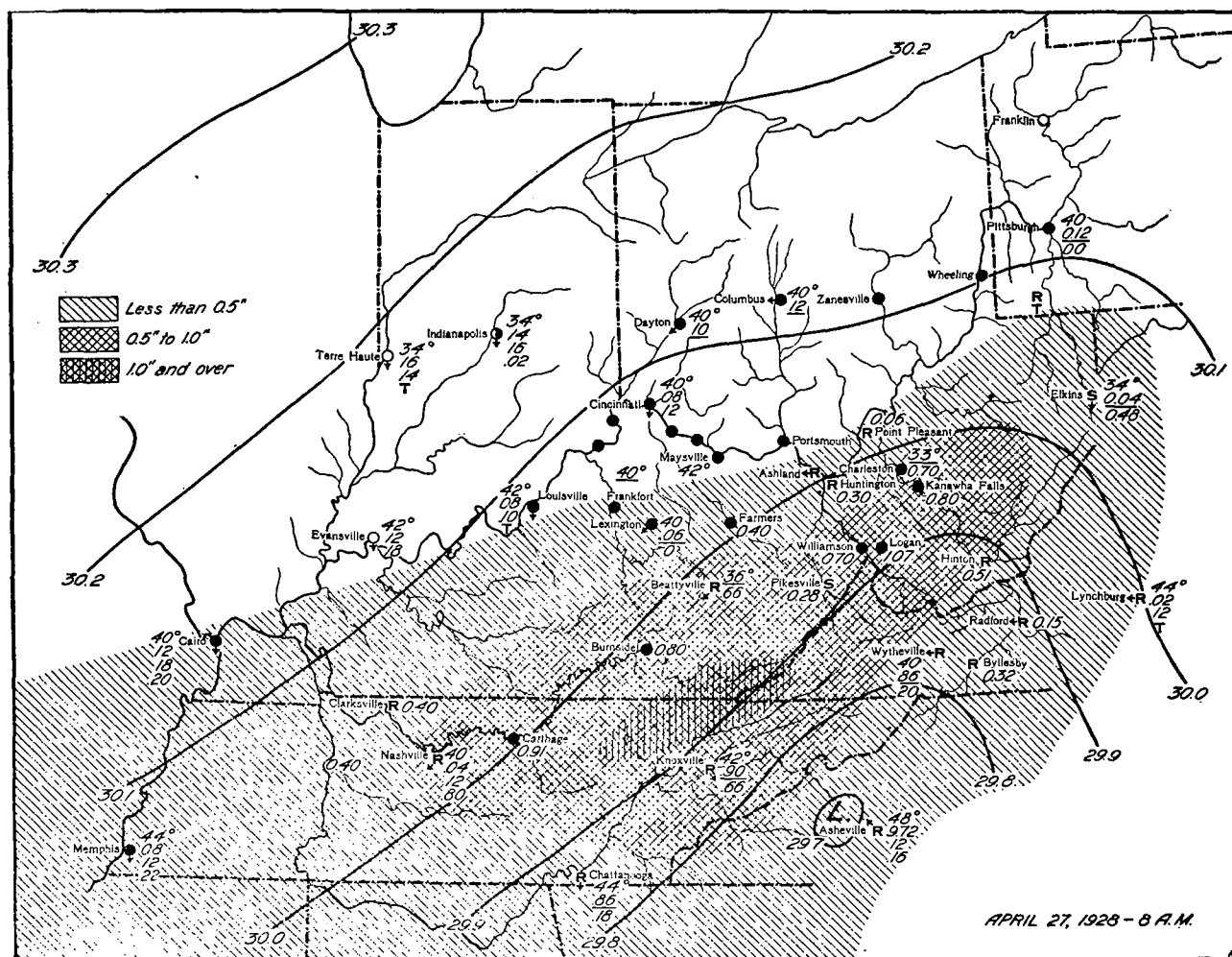


FIG. 2.—Weather map same date as Figure 1 but on a larger base; the map includes detailed data of temperature and precipitation at river stations in Ohio drainage, also temperature, pressure, wind velocity, and precipitation in order named at Weather Bureau stations

Figure 4 shows the total precipitation and the total snowfall for April 27 and 28, 1928. The precipitation is the upper figure and the snowfall the lower figure. One station in West Virginia reported 40 inches of snowfall, several reported 30 inches or more, and 20 inches or more covered nearly one-half of the State. The largest amounts reported in other States were as follows: 36 inches in Pennsylvania, 15.5 inches in Kentucky, 14 inches in Virginia, and 13 inches in North Carolina.

The following extracts are brief descriptions of the heavy snowfall:

By WILLIAM S. BROTZMAN

[Weather Bureau, Pittsburgh, Pa.]

This is the worst snowstorm ever experienced in Pittsburgh so late in the year, and probably the worst for the

ground; at Sand Patch, in same county, between 17 and 18 inches. Very little up the Allegheny, and still less west of Pittsburgh.

By HARRIS A. JONES

[Weather Bureau, Elkins, W. Va.]

The big snowstorm of April 27 and 28, 1928, was certainly a record breaker for April, and lacks but one of being the greatest in the history of the Elkins Weather Bureau station, 30 years record. On April 8, 1902, there was a snowfall of 16 inches, with a maximum depth of 16 inches. November 9, 1913, we had a snowfall of 18 inches, with a maximum depth on the 10th of 20 inches.

The snow started here shortly after midnight a. m. of the 27th, but it was so warm that only on the sod and on roofs did it accumulate until about mid-forenoon. By noon of the 27th we had about two inches of very wet

snow. After that it piled up slowly, considering the amount of water content of the snow. Being wet and barely freezing, with practically calm air, it stuck to the branches of trees and to wires—in fact to everything that was exposed. Traffic on the roads was almost completely blocked. Train schedules were badly disarranged. Communication by wire was completely demoralized for two days. The newspaper here got Associated Press news over the radio. Many trees were badly broken. One

By APPALACHIAN POWER CO
[Bluefield, W. Va.]

Beginning with a light misty rain about 9 o'clock on the morning of April 27, in the immediate vicinity of Bluefield, we had a general mixture of rain, sleet, and snow throughout the 27th and the 28th of April and the combined result amounted to 2 inches of water in the gauge. Roughly, I would suppose that at least 1 inch of the above amount was rain and the remainder sleet and snow.

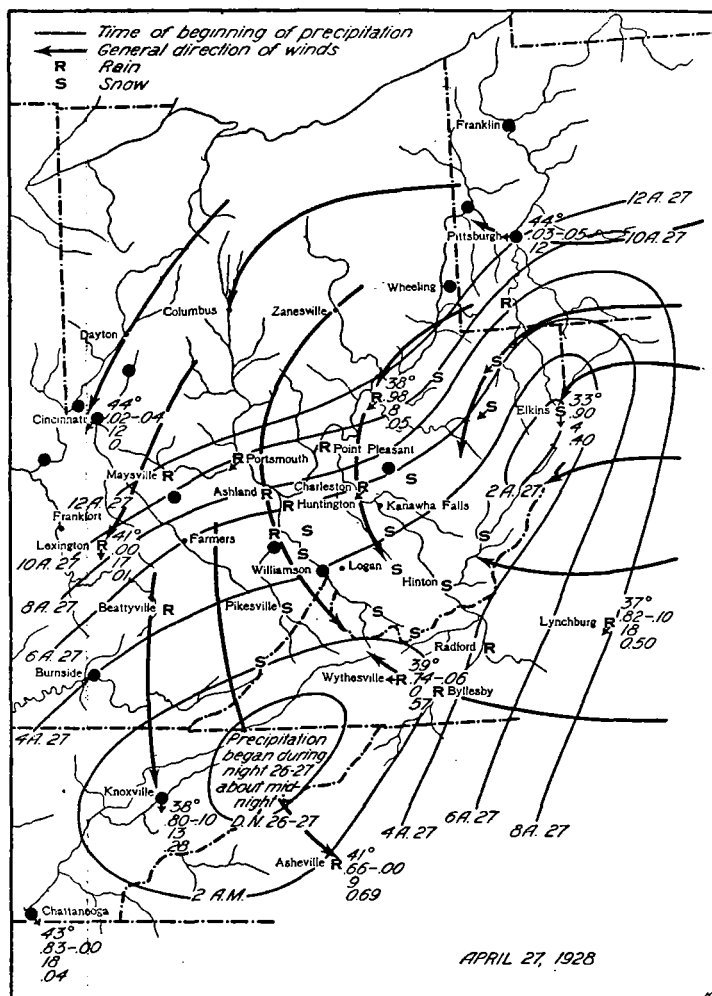


FIG. 3.—Time of beginning of precipitation between midnight April 26 and noon April 27

farmer living in the outskirts measured carefully and gave me a report of 19 inches at his place. A mountain man said that he measured it at various places on the mountain and it was anywhere from 2 to 3 feet deep. One report said that it was 38 inches deep at Gladys, a mountain town about 10 miles southwest of here. There was no damage to the fruit buds by the coating of snow and soft ice, though there was considerable damage to the fruit trees.

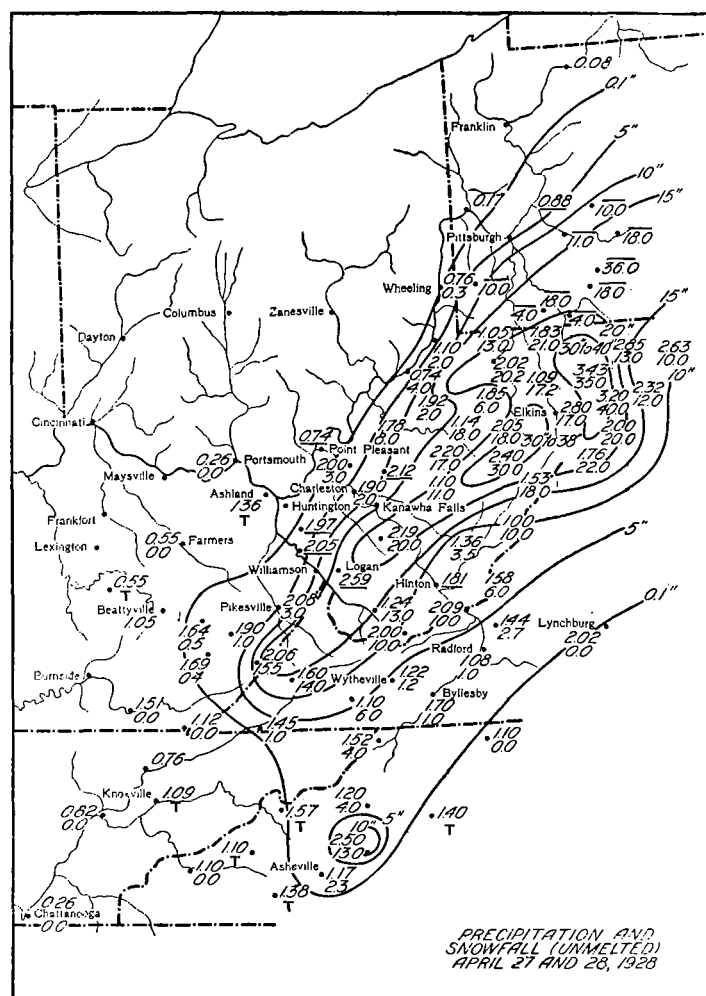


FIG. 4.—Total depth of rain and unmelted snow April 27-28. Top figures, total rain plus water equivalent of any snow that may have melted; bottom, total depth of unmelted snow in inches

We have no reports from other stations outside of Bluefield. The original Appalachian Power Co. system which covers approximately 30 counties in southern Virginia and West Virginia, suffered but little as a result of this storm. I understand, however, that our Charleston, W. Va., and Logan, W. Va., districts did suffer considerable damage. Our records indicate that the storm did not extend far east of Bluefield, W. Va.